Loss on account of Rail Freight Equalization

4699. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the total subsidy/loss on account of freight equalization incurred so far by the Ministry of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): The Ministry of Railways do not follow any policy of freight equalisation. The question of incurring any loss/subsidy on this account, therefore, does not arise.

Saloons in the Indian Railways

4700. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of saloons, the Indian Railways possess at present;

(b) the cost of building such saloons;

(c) the cost incurred during the last three years; and

(d) who are entitled to travel in such saloons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There are 499 coaches of this type comprising of 376 Inspection Carriages, 11 Special Observation Cars and 112 Tourist Cars as on 31.03.2000.

(b) Based on the figures of the year 1999-2000, the cost of building of one such coach is Rs. 40 lakhs, approximately.

(c) The total cost incurred in manufacturing such coaches during the last three financial years (1997-98 to 1999-2000) is Rs. 13.45 crores.

(d) Inspection Carriages are used for movement of Railway Officers for inspection of stations, track and rolling stock during the run, running sheds, depots, yards etc. and also for stay at way-side stations during emergencies. Tourist Cars and other such coaches are available for public use on payment of required tariff.